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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORTREPORT 

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COUNTRY

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SUBJECT

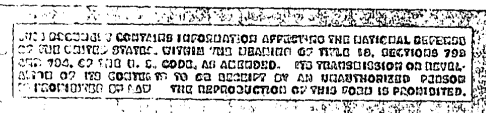
Production of a New Model of the Kolibri  
Fixed Frequency Radio Receiver

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DATE OF  
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1. In late April 1954, the Minister for Machine Construction, Heinrich Rau, ordered VEB Stern-Radio, Berlin, to stop the production of Kolibri receivers. As previously reported<sup>1</sup>, this firm had already produced about 50,000 units of this type of receiver. Rau's order was motivated by the bad quality of the receiver, which made it entirely unfit for its main purpose of making reception of the RIAS transmissions impossible. The order was issued after the following incident had occurred: Rau's Deputy Minister for General Machine Construction, Alfred Wunderlich, called a meeting of interested personnel in which he intended to demonstrate the perfect quality of the Kolibri receiver and advocate its mass production and sale. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Trade Organization (HO), DHZ Elektrotechnik, DIA Elektrotechnik, the cooperatives for Industrial Products, the technical head of the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications Technology (HV RFT), Albrecht (fmu), and Minister Rau. Wunderlich made a speech in which he stated that East German industry had finally succeeded in putting out a cheap receiver with which the transmissions of the "Democratic" broadcasting stations, but not those of the "hostile transmitter" RIAS, could be heard. He then pressed the key of a Kolibri receiver placed before him, whereupon the attending persons could distinctly hear the voice of the RIAS speaker for the Children's Hour: "Here is Uncle Tobias of RIAS."
2. The Central Committee of the SED, as well as the State Control Commission and the Council of Ministers, have intervened several times in this matter. The manager and the technical director of VEB Stern-Radio, Berlin, were relieved of their functions. In a session of HV RFT in early July 1954, the head of the Main Administration, Adolf Hegemann, stated that he had so far not succeeded in obtaining the approval of the Politburo for the new manager of the firm.
3. In the meantime, the quality of the Kolibri receiver has been improved. The new model has a new type of loudspeaker and slides instead of keys for the adjustment of frequencies. When it was proved that RIAS transmissions could not be received on this new model, production of 100,000 units was ordered in order that the original planned quota for 1954 of 150,000 Kolibri receivers might be filled. Production of the new model is scheduled to start on 19 July 1954 at the VEB Stern-Radio plant.

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